

Does Max Birt Sawmills Ltd meet FSC's Controlled Wood standard?

17th December 2025

We are carrying out an audit for Max Birt Sawmills Ltd located in 155 State Highway 2, Mangatāwhiri 2471, New Zealand, to see if their operations comply with FSC's [Controlled Wood](#) standard (FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1). We are writing to you to ask if you know of any reason why their operations would not meet this standard.

Controlled Wood is wood that meets minimum requirements and that can therefore be mixed with FSC wood and used in products with an FSC Mix label. In particular, the wood must not be:

- harvested illegally.
- harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights.
- harvested from forests with a high conservation value that is threatened by management activities.
- harvested from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use.
- from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

We will carry out our audit on 02/02/2026. Here is how you should comment, if you wish to do so:

- When? You should send comments to us before or during the audit.
- How? You can comment by .
 - Meeting with a Preferred by Nature staff member in person.
 - Phone to Di Fan, Preferred by Nature staff member from New Zealand. Her phone number is +64 (022) 3876670
 - Email to Di Fan at dfan@preferredbynature.org
 - In person by arranging to meet with Di Fan
- If you want your comments to be confidential please notify us when you submit the comments.

If you provide comments, we will provide feedback to you within 30 days of the audit.

Max Birt Sawmills Limited has written a summary document that lists:

- the risks they have identified that they may source unacceptable wood
- the measures they implement to mitigate those risks.

We have attached this summary document to this letter.

If you wish to dispute any aspect of this forest certification process or the decision we reach as to whether this company meets the Controlled Wood standard, you can access our Dispute Resolution Policy at <https://preferredbynature.org/dispute-resolution-policy>

Thank you for any help you are able to provide.

If you have any recommendations for contacting other stakeholders that may have an interest in providing comments on this company and audit, we would also gladly receive these from you.

Yours sincerely,

Di Fan

Forestry Specialist – New Zealand

Preferred by Nature

FSC Controlled Wood Due Diligence System Public Summary

1. General information

Organisation name:	Max Birt Sawmills Limited
FSC certificate code:	PBN-COC-081780-Pending
Organisation's DDS contact person:	Craig Ashton
DDS prepared/assisted by:	Craig Ashton
Date last reviewed/updated (by the organisation):	09/12/2025

2. Suppliers

Participating site	Non-certified material type sourced	Exact number of suppliers	Supplier type(s)	Average no. of tiers in the supply chains	Approximate or exact number of sub-suppliers
Max Birt Sawmills Limited	W1.1 Logs	9	Forest Managers	1	0
Max Birt Sawmills Limited	W5 Solid Wood	6	Sawmill (Primary Processor)	2	5

3. Supply areas

Supply area	Controlled wood category	Reference to risk assessment used	Risk designation
North Island, New Zealand (Northland/Auckland/South Auckland/ Waikato/Central North Island.)	1	FSC-CNRA-NZ V1-0 EN_2019-08-29	Low Risk
	2		Low Risk
	3		Specified Risk
	4		Low Risk
	5		Low Risk

4. Risk assessment and mitigation

4.a Risk mitigation for the origin of the material

Supply area: New Zealand, North Island, New Zealand		
Indicator	Control Measures	Findings from field verification if undertaken as a control measure
Controlled wood category 3. Wood harvested in forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities		
3.3	<p>All logs and lumber are sourced from within the North Island of New Zealand – specifically Northland/Auckland/South Auckland/Waikato/Central North Island areas.</p> <p>All logs are purchased from NZ woodlots and managed plantations, delivered to MBS directly from the forest. If logs are not FSC Certified then MBS complete a controlled wood risk assessment for each supplier and forest location where logs are sourced from. Log Dockets are reviewed for each load to ensure they match the assessment.</p> <p>Max Birt Sawmills Ltd confirmed that all log supply identified in Source Map fall under the Regional Councils which have a Biodiversity Strategy in place.</p> <p>This confirms that all logs sourced by Max Birt Sawmills are low risk. Max Birt Sawmills will not accept logs from outside these areas.</p> <p>Sawn timber is sourced as combination of FSC Mix Credit and controlled wood. If timbers are not FSC certified, the suppliers are assessed prior to commencing supply and at least annually thereafter to ensure source of timber is from managed plantations.</p>	n/a

4.b Risk assessment and mitigation for mixing in the supply chain

Participating site	Supply chain type and supply area	No. of tiers	Risk of mixing	Control Measures	Findings from field verification if undertaken as a control measure
Max Birt Sawmill Ltd	Wood delivered and purchased directly from forest owner to Organisation's log yard	1	Risk of mixing in this supply chain has been identified as 'no risk of mixing'	N/A	N/A
Max Birt Sawmill Ltd-Ohinewai	Wood delivered and purchased directly from sawmill to Organisation's timber yard	2	Risk of mixing in this supply chain has been identified as 'no risk of mixing'	N/A	N/A

5. Technical experts used in the development of control measures

N/A, technical experts were not required.

6. Stakeholder consultation processes

N/A, technical experts were not required.

7. Complaints procedure

We encourage stakeholders who have suggestions for improvements, comments, or complaints related to our controlled wood due diligence system to contact Craig Ashton (Finance & Commercial Manager), P O Box 120, Pokeno. By email craigashton@maxbirt.co.nz, DDI +64 9 236 2018, or Mobile+64 27 564 6789. We commit to follow up on stakeholder input as soon as we receive it and to provide stakeholders with feedback within 2 weeks.

In the case of comments or complaints from stakeholders that are related to the DDS, the following process shall be implemented:

- a) Acknowledge receipt of the complaint.
- b) Inform stakeholders of the complaint procedure, and provide an initial response to complainant within a time period of two (2) weeks.
- c) Forward complaints related to risk designations in the relevant FSC risk assessment to the responsible body (for a CNRA: FSC)

NOTE: When a complaint is forwarded to a responsible body, Clauses 7.2. d) - k) do not apply.

- d) Conduct a preliminary assessment to determine whether evidence provided in a complaint is or is not substantial, by assessing the evidence provided against the risk of using material from unacceptable sources.
- e) Hold discussions with the complainant in order to solve complaints assessed as substantial before further actions are taken.
- f) Forward substantial complaints to the certification body and relevant FSC National Office for the supply area within two (2) weeks of receipt of the complaint.
 - Information on the steps to be taken by the organization in order to resolve the complaint, as well as how a precautionary approach will be used, shall be included with the complaint.
- g) Employing a precautionary approach towards the continued sourcing of the relevant material while a complaint is pending.

NOTE: This includes a description of how the precautionary approach is employed by the organization when a complaint is active.

NOTE: A complaint is pending if it has been considered to be substantial (according to Clause 7.2 d), and no effective corrective action (according to Clauses 7.2 h) - k) has been taken yet.

- h) Conduct either a field verification or desk verification to verify a complaint assessed as substantial by the organization, within two (2) months of its receipt.
- i) Determine the corrective action to be taken by suppliers and the means to enforce its implementation by a supplier if a complaint has been assessed and verified as substantial. If a corrective action cannot be determined and/or enforced, the relevant material and/or suppliers shall be excluded by the organization.
- j) Verify whether corrective action has been taken by suppliers and whether it is effective;
- k) Exclude the relevant material and suppliers from the organization's supply chain if no corrective action is taken.
- l) Inform the complainant, the certification body, and the relevant FSC National Office of the results of the complaint and any actions taken towards its resolution, and for maintaining copies of relevant correspondence.
- m) Record and file hardcopies of all complaints received and actions taken.

Contact Details for addressing feedbacks/complaints:

Craig Ashton, Finance & Commercial Manager

155 State Highway 2
P O Box 120, Pokeno
DDI 09 236 2018 Mobile 027 564 6789

Annex

Include all company risk assessments and extended company risk assessments as annexes or refer to file name if attached separately.

n/a